THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Narayanasamy, please take your seat. (*Intereuptions*) There have been cases where the detenus have escaped from Punjab, from Delhi, from any other place. That does not mean....(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : In Tamil Nadu, in jail after jail, this is happening. In Vellore, in Salem..(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : Want only they are bringing it. Want only they are trying to malign the Government of Tamil Nadu.

(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Nothing is going on record now. That matter is closed now. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Narayanasamy, please take your seat.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Swaminathan, you have to address the Chair and not Mr. Subramanian Swamy. He is not the Deputy Chairman or the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

SHRI S. Muthu Mani : *

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, nothing is going on record. That allegation also is not going on record. Now we have to take up the calling attention. We have got a lot of business today and I will not permit anything now. We take up calling attention.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINGH (Bihar) : Be kind, Madam. Just one minute. I would have finished by this time.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN (Madhya Pradesh) : Madam, ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Suddenly you walked in and noy you start disturbing !

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : Madam, you may.....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, I may not.

Re : Sale of Toxicants in the form of Toffees, Chocolates, etc.

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा : उपसभापति महोदया, इस देश में नशाबंदी के तरह-तरह के कानून हैं और इन कानूनों का अनुपालन कराने के लिए सरकार कोशिश भी करती है। अभी-अभी समाचार पत्रों में भी आया है और हम सभी जानते हैं कि नशीली वस्तुओं की घड़ल्ले से बिक्री हो रही है। और तो और बच्चों को भी नशे की लत लग जाए इसके लिए टॉफी, चॉकलेट आदि में भी नशा मिलाया जाता है, शराब मिला कर घड़ल्ले से बिक्री हो रही है। शहर की आम छोटी-छोटी दुकानों में, पान और स्टेशनरी की दुकानों में इनकी बिक्री हो रही है। इनके ऊपर जो रेपर लगे होते हैं उन में शराब का नाम रहता है व्हिस्की, रम, मैं तो इन नशीली वस्तुओं के नाम तक नहीं जानती हूं लेकिन इनमें ड्रग्ज मिली हुई हैं, जिससे बच्चों को लत लग जाए। *

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record. I am not allowing anything. We take up calling attention. When I said 'no' it means 'no'. Please take your seats. Satya Bahinji, please sit down. Mr. Yashwant Sinha. Let us finish it in half an hour.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry) : I am on a point of order.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : What is the point of order ? There is no business on which you could have a point of order.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : On the calling attention I want to raise a point of order.

Madam, in the List of Business, it has been mentioned that a construction company committed a fraud and we have this calling atten. Madam, I would like to submit that in our House, we are not

*Not recorded

discussing by way of calling attention motion any individual cases. Only cases of a broad nature which concern the people of this country, are being discussed ....(*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let me hear. Calling attention is not addressed to the Member; it is to the Chair.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : The calling attention notice that has been given relates to a particular construction company. This is not a matter of public interest. A construction company committed a fraud and they want to raise this issue by way of calling attention. They have got other forums and other avenues to raise this matter. When the Finance Bill was being discussed, it could be raised, because it is a financial matter.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I may tell you one thing. I draw your attention to Chapter XIV, Rule 180, which says : "A member may, with the previous permission of the Chairman, call the attention of a Minister...."

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : I am also referring to Chapter XIV.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Narayanasamy, please listen to me first. The rule says : 'A member may, with the previous permission of the Chairman, call the attention of a Minister to any matter of urgent public importance and the Minister may make a brief statement or ask....' Now, when the hon. Chairman has admitted it.....

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : I am coming to that, Madam, I have not concluded.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, it is beyond me....

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : I quite understand. But kindly hear me before you give your ruling. Kindly hear me. I know the rule. I know it has been provided there in rule 180. In regard to matters of urgent public importance. I am not on that issue. I know your predicament. It has already been accepted by the Chairman. But my submission is, there is an important national issue to be discussed today, namely, the report of the Verma Commission. Therefore, I would request hon. Members that we should first take up the discussion on the report of the Verma Commission. I know about the rule in regard to Calling-Attention Motions. I know that it should be taken up first. I am only requesting that if the Members agree, the Calling-Attention Motion may be taken up later so that we can discuss the report of the Verma Commission. We can give more importance to it. It is for the hon. Deputy Chairman to consider. I leave it to the wisdom of the hon. Members.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदया, मेरा इस मामले में निवेदन यह है कि नियम के अनुसार कालिंग अटेंशन शार्ट ड्यूरेशन से पहले लिया जाता है लेकिन मैं विनम्रतापूर्वक यह कहना चाहता हूं कि थोड़ा वर्मा कमीशन के डिसकशन में भी शंका महसूस हो रही है वह इसलिए हो रही है कि जानबूझकर उस डिसकशन में विलम्ब किया जा रहा है । आज आखिरी दिन है । गत सप्ताह यह तय हो गया था कि वर्मा कमीशन पर डिसकशन किया जाएगा । जहां तक कालिंग अटेंशन पहले डिसकस करने की बात है तो कालिंग अटेंशन मैंने स्वयं ने और नारायणसामी जी ने वर्मा कमीशन पर डिसकशन के लिए दिया था। यदि कालिंग अटेंशन को ही एडमिट करना था तो मैं बिल्कुल अदब के साथ विनम्रतापूर्वक कहना चाहता हूं कि वर्मा कमीशन को ही करना चाहिए था । लेकिन इसको नजरअंदाज किया गया और बाद में उसको शार्ट ड्यूरेशन में डाल दिया गया है ताकि एक इंडिविजुअल कम्पनी के मामले को कालिंग अटेंशन में डिसकस किया जाए लम्बे समय तक और इतना विलम्ब हो जाए कि आखिरी दिन जो राजीव गांधी के असेसिनेशन से सम्बन्धित शार्ट ड्यूरेशन डिस्कशन होने जा रहा है वह इतनी देरी से हो कि लोगों की उसमें ज्यादा दिलचस्पी न हो । महोदया, यह बहुत गंभीर मामला है । यद्यपि इसमें परमिशन माननीय चेयरमैन

साहब ने दी है इसलिए उस पर मैं कोई टिप्पणी नहीं करना चाहता हूं लेकिन यह मामला भावनाओं से जुड़ा हुआ है । इसलिए मैं बड़े अदब के साथ कहना चाहता हूं कि हमें वरीयता और प्राथमिकता तय करनी चाहिए सदन में कि कौन सी चीज को और कब डिसकशन में लाना है । यदि कालिंग अटेंशन को ही लेना है तो मैं बड़ी विनम्रतापूर्वक कहना चाहता हूं कि कालिंग अटेंशन इस मामले में डिसकशन के लिए जो मैंने स्वयं ने दिया था उसको विचाराधीन क्यों नहीं रखा गया। इसलिए मैं अंत में अपील करना चाहता हूं माननीय सदस्यों से क्योंकि राजीव गांधी के असेसिनेशन से सम्बन्धित यह डिसकशन है इसलिए कालिंग अटेंशन वे बाद में डिसकस कर लें और शार्ट ड्यूरेशन पहले लेकर आ जाएं।

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदया, बिजिनेस बहुत है---(व्यवधान)

उपसभापति : एक मिनट, बैठिए ।

श्री जगदीस प्रसाद माथुर: (उत्तर प्रदेश) महोदया, आप कालिंग अटेंशन कर चुकी हैं। हम लोग शीघ्रतिशीघ्र कालिंग अटेंशन खत्म करेंगे और कह रहे हैं कि वर्मा कमीशन इम्पारटेंट है इसको पूरा समय दिया जाएगा ।

उपसभापति : माथुर साहब बैठिए। एक मिनट। ये दो बातें उठायी हैं ।

Mr. Narayanasamy has raised it. Mr. Suresh Pachouri has raised it. Now, there has been a demand to discuss the report of the Verma Commission not only this year, but last year also. Mr. Digvijay Singh raised the issue. That was also at the end of the Session in May last year. He insisted that the report should be laid on the Table of the house. The then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs gave an assurance. When the paper was laid....

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : Madam, the report came only in July.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mrs. Alva, you are not listening to what I am saying. I said it. I said that there was a demand that this report should be laid on the Table of the House. They said that the report was not ready. I remember even the words, the date and the person. It was Mr. Digvijay Singh. The other matter was also raised. I know every detail. Now, I am only trying to say that we have got the report. Members are sentimental about this matter. They want to know. Not only it is a question of statement. It is also a question of finding out as to who are the culprits, how such a thing could happen, how such a tragic event could take place.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : We all agree.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : This matter was raised in the Business Advisory Committee. The Committee decided to have a discussion on it for a full day, i.e. a 4-hour discussion on it. Then, it was decided by the Committee that it should be taken up in the form of a short-duration discussion. This decision was taken by the Committee. As far as the Calling Attention is concerned, the Calling Attention is being admitted. I would say that Mr. Chairman in his wisdom has given it. Whether it is a matter of an individual company or other people or whatever it is, it is the Chairman's prerogative. Now that it is there, considering the sentiments of the Members, if they want to discuss any other busines have no objection, but the House is supreme. If the Members, who are having their names, want to agree, I will be cooperative. Otherwise, I can only request the Members to finish it within half an hour. (*Interruptions*). Hardly 25 minutes are left in the lunch hour. (*Interruptions*). So, what is the agreement of the House ? I leave it to the House. (*Interruptions*). Mr. Narayanasamy, I have left it to the Members. If they agree, fine, I have no objection.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal) : You have already explained in what circumstances the Business Advisory Committee has taken this decision. In fact, it was incumbent upon the Government and for that matter upon the Department of Parliamentary Affairs to find out adequate time so that the House could discuss the Verma Commission report long before the last date of the second leg of the Budget Session of the Rajya Sabha. Naturally, here the Members have nothing to do. Even though in July the report was laid on the Table according to Mr. Alva, this could be printed overnight, circulated to Members the next day and at the start of the Session this could be taken up. It was incumbent upon the Government. But as far as the procedure in the Rajya Sabha is concerned, this issue of bank fraud perpetrated by the Progressive Constructions Limited has to be taken up first as a Calling Attention Motion and then discussion on the Verma Commission report has to be taken up as a Short Duration Discussion. So, according to the procedure, Calling Attention has to be taken up immediately after the Question Hour is over. Short Duration Discussion is taken up in the afternoon, say, around 3 O'clock after the Calling Attention is over. Today it is the Private Member's day.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, it is not, it is an extended Session.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : I think the Calling Attention should be completed as quickly as possible and then the Short Duration Discussion can be taken up.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Madam, since Shri Dipen Ghosh has specifically spoken about the Department of Parliamentary Affairs, I would like to clarify the position. I am sure the Members of the Opposition would also bear me out that we have repeatedly over the last three weeks brought this subject before the Business Advisory Committee. All the leaders desired to have enough time before discussing this subject. So, it was decided to have a discussion today, that is the last day of the Session. Though it is Friday today, it was decided that we would give up the Private Members' Business and have enough time for discussion of the Verma Commission report Therefore, to say that the Department of Parliamentary Affairs delayed it is very unfair. We have been repeatedly asking for this. He specifically said that we failed to bring it earlier. I think that is not fair. I am just putting it on record.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Madam, we do not want to differ from you on this sensitive issue having regard to the importance and urgency of the Verma Commission's report. We all agreed to forego the Private Members' Business. So, you may kindly decide that it may be taken up at 3 O'clock. Now we should not waste time in these things.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Today the Private Members' Business would not be there because it is an extended Session. So, we have got enough time to discuss and I can only request the Members to be extremely brief as far as the Calling Attention was concerned. Yes, Mr. Yashwant Sinha.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL (Gujarat) : Madam, we are following a very bad precedent by discussing a private company. Then there will be hundreds of such cases which will come to Parliament Individual companies should not be discussed here.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is the Chairman who has gone into it and it has also been accepted by the Minister.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : He could have been guided properly. It should not be a precedent. Individual companies are not discussed here.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now this has been listed. We have to go ahead.

Calling Attention to Matter of Urgent Public Importance

Re : Reported Disclosure of a Bank Fraud perpetrated by Progressive Constructions Ltd. and the Action taktn by Government in Regard thereto

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (BIHAR) : Madam, I call the attention of the Minister of Finance to the reported disclosure of a Bank fraud perpetrated by the Progressive Constructions Limited and the action by Government in regard thereto.

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा. अब्दार अहमद) : मैडम, सरकार को, प्रोग्रेसिव कंस्ट्रक्शन प्राईवेट लिमिटेड और इसकी सहायक कंपनियों को प्रदत्त किये गये बैंक वित्त से संबंधित कथित अनियमितताओं के बारे में मई, जून, 1992 में कई संसद सदस्यों से प्राप्त संदर्भों सहित कई संदर्भ प्राप्त हुए थे। वित्त मंत्री की हिदायत पर भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक से अनुरोध किया गया था कि इन खातों की जांच करने के लिए एक स्वतंत्र लेखा-परीक्षक नियुक्त किया जाये। दिनांक 20 जुलाई, 1992 को, भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने बैंककारी विनियमन अधिनियम, 1949 की धारा 30 (1ख) द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, मैसर्स प्रोग्रेसिव कंस्ट्रक्शन लिमिटेड, हैदराबाद और उसकी सहायक कंपनियों तथा साथ ही आन्ध्रा बैंक, विजया बैंक, कारपोरेशन बैंक, भारतीय स्टेट बैंक, स्टेट बैंक आफ हैदराबाद और बैंक आफ बड़ौदा के लेखों की मैसर्स पी आनंदम एंड कंपनी, चार्टर्ड एकाऊंटेंट्स, हैदराबाद द्वारा विशेष लेखा-परीक्षा किये जाने का निर्देश दिया।

प्रतिभूति सबधी लेनदेनों में हुई अनियमितताओं की जांच कर रही संयुक्त संसदीय समिति ने भी, भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा प्रोग्रेसिव कंस्ट्रक्शन लिमिटेड के मामले में की गयी जांच के बारे में कुछ कागजातों/जानकारी की मांग की थी। इस मांग के उत्तर में, भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के पास इस समय उपलब्ध कागजात संयुक्त संसदीय समिति को प्रस्तुत कर दिये गये थे।

विशेष लेखा-परीक्षकों ने भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक को अपनी अंतिम लेखा-परीक्षा रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत कर दी है। भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने लेखा-परीक्षा रिपोर्ट संबंधित बैंकों को भेज दी है और उनसे पैरा-वार टिप्पणियां मंगवायी हैं। रिजर्व बैंक ने लेखों के संचालन में हुई अनियमितताओं की ओर भी बैंकों का ध्यान आकृष्ट किया है और बैंकों को तत्काल उपचारी कार्रवाई करने तथा लेखों पर बारीकी से नजर रखने के लिए कहा है।

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Madam, I must say right in the beginning, to put any doubts in any quarter at rest, that I am not raising this matter with anv malic towards anyone. I have absolutely no personal interest in the matter. It is only because, to my mind, to my information, certain very gross irregularities, certain criminal acts have been committed, that I have chosen to raise this matter in this House and take your time and the time of the House.

Madam Dy. Chairman, after all the effort which has gone into looking into the affairs of this company, on this matter, as the Hon. Minister has just now mentioned in his statement, which has been agitatet over the years and which has attracted the notice of Members of Parliament cutting across party-lines in both the House, one would have expected that the Minister, in his statement in reply to my Calling Attention, should have been more forthright, the Minister should have been more forthcoming, the Minister should have been more informative, the Minister should have been more straight about the action that the Government proposes to ake.

Madam, I would like to make one point right in the beginning, and that is that this matter which is being raised here through the Calling Attention and which has been raised earlier by various Members of Parliament, as I have said through letters which have been written to the Government, including me when I was Finance Minister, is a matter with